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NOTES AND MEMORANDA.

CO-OPERATIVE STORES IN NEW ENGLAND.

In the excellent article by Professor Edward Cummings on "Co-operative Stores in the United States," in the April issue of this Journal, I have just noticed a criticism of my statement in the *Bulletin of the Department of Labor* for September, 1896, that none of the so-called "Union Stores" in New England survive.

I coupled this statement in the Bulletin with another, that these stores had "either failed or were transformed into private enterprises." Professor Cummings states that the Protective Union in Worcester, Massachusetts, and one or two others survive. I would merely say that I not only investigated these stores carefully in my account of co-operation, in the Johns Hopkins Studies ten years ago, but visited the Worcester stores again in preparing the chapter for the Bulletin, and was told emphatically by the management that they did not consider the store co-operative. And from what they said I failed to discern any co-operative features, since the whole business was run not in the interests of the consumer or with the ownership of stock open to everybody who cared to pay the par value of small shares, as in co-operative stores generally, but entirely in the interests of a few stockholders, whose numbers were diminishing rather than increasing, and whose shares, originally large, were at a high premium.

I had reason to believe the same to be true at Natick and New Bedford. It seems to me that the old idea of union stores of low prices and small dividends, and shares so small that they could be widely owned among any desirous of joining the co-operative movement, has entirely broken down in the three or four stores that still retain the name of union stores, and that they have, in fact, become precisely what I described them, and what the manager of the largest one assured me they were,—private enterprises.

EDWARD W. BEMIS.

AN important addition to the growing literature on sociology is made by the *Rivista Italiana di Sociologia*, of which the first number appeared in May. The new review is distinct from the existing *Rivista di Sociologia*, and represents in some sense a secession from that journal, two members of its administrative council being former editors of the *Rivista*. The council of the *Rivista Italiana* consists of Messrs. S. Cagnetti de Martiis, A. Bosco, G. Cavaglieri, G. Sergi, V. Tangorra, E. Tedeschi; and contributions are promised from a large number of eminent scholars in various countries. Six numbers a year will be published, at an annual subscription of 10 lire, to be remitted to Rome, Piazza Poli, 42.

PROFESSOR SCHANZ, to whose volume on insurance for the unemployed reference was made in the last volume of this Journal,* has published a collection of *Neue Beiträge zur Frage der Arbeitslosenversicherung*, in which all available data on the subject to the date of publication are brought together. Professor Schanz gives notice that he proposes to continue his critical study of this movement, and to report results from time to time. We notice also, as evidence of the growing attention which the general subject of insurance is receiving in Germany, that a *Seminar für Versicherungswissenschaft* has been established in Göttingen, under the guidance of Professor Lexis. Here training is to be given to those who may wish to find employment, as actuaries or administrators, in public and private insurance organizations.

WITH the ninth volume of *Life and Labour of the People of London*, Mr. Charles Booth reaches the conclusion of his descriptive part, and so brings his great undertaking to the

* Vol. x. p. 341, April, 1896.

point where summary and conclusion become possible. The ninth volume, accordingly, contains two parts,—a first, giving an abstract of the eight volumes preceding, and a second, giving a general description and some general conclusions. Remarkable alike in conception and in execution, the series stands as a lasting monument to the public spirit and the scientific eminence of its originator and editor.

Another undertaking, also recording the industrial conditions of the close of the nineteenth century, has been brought to a close in Germany. The *Verein für Sozial Politik* has published the tenth and last volume of its *Untersuchungen über die Lage des Handwerks*. Nine of the volumes, under the editorship of Dr. Bücher, have been given to Germany, while the tenth, edited by Professor Phillippovich, is on Austria. Here also is a great mine of material brought together for the benefit of the present and future student of economic and social conditions.

AMONG recent government documents we note an important report on the inauguration of a forest policy by the United States, made by a committee, of which Professor Charles S. Sargent was chairman, appointed by the National Academy of Sciences. The committee recommended the establishment of a number of additional forest reserves, the creation of two new national parks (at Mount Ranier in Washington, and along the Canyon of the Colorado in Arizona) and the organization of a carefully planned bureau of public forests. Under authority given by an act of 1891, President Cleveland established the thirteen forest reservations defined by the committee, having an area of some twenty-one million acres. Other reservations with an area of seventeen million acres had been previously made. The protection of the tracts so reserved is far from adequate, and the important recommendation for the establishment of a forestry force has not been acted on by Congress; yet some beginning has been made toward the preservation of our forests, and the ground has been prepared for further action.

THE Massachusetts Board of Arbitration and Conciliation, in its annual report on the work of the year 1896, makes a statement in regard to its policy and the success attending it, which, in view of what has been said elsewhere in these columns,* may be here quoted : —

It has been the aim of the Board, in all its reports to the General Court, to give in a condensed and readable form an account of the several phases assumed during the year by the "labor question," so called. . . . With this view of what is expected of the Board, we are led every year to take cognizance of strikes and lockouts when there is no reasonable expectation of an early adjustment by agreement of the parties. Sometimes under these discouraging conditions, by the exercise of patience, tact, and discretion, good results have been achieved through the efforts or by the advice of the Board; but a perceptible lapse of time is essential for the purpose, and the first attempts at getting acquainted with the parties and securing their confidence are sometimes spoken of by the newspapers and magazine writers as "failures." The apparent results or want of results are by themselves no proper test of the work of a Board or of the value of an economical principle or policy. Some people who are unfavorable to any form of State arbitration, and, therefore, determined not to see any good that may be done by it, are ready to cite all these cases as "failures" of State arbitration, although, rightly viewed they merely show the failure in particular instances of employees or employers to make use of an influence which always works for harmony and never for discord.

The report goes on to describe the cases with which the board dealt during the year. The large proportion among the shoe factories is again noticeable; of thirty disputes in all (some of them merely reported for general information) exactly one-half arose in this industry. Among textile trades not one case is mentioned.

* See the article by Mr. S. N. D. North, in this Journal for July, 1896.